In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5-8 and 10-12. Please amend claims 1, 4, 12, and 20-21. Please add new claims 22-29. The claims are as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating an intrusion detection system for detecting an intrusion of a protected network attachment according to [[a]] at least one business rule, said method comprising the steps of:

awaiting an occurrence of a next update time of the intrusion detection system, said next update time being a time at which at least one validity condition of the at least one business rule is checked;

responsive to the occurrence of [[an]] the next update time, checking [[a]] the at least one validity condition of [[a]] the at least one business rule to determine whether a provision of any business rule of the at least one business rule is a newly operative provision that has first become operative or gone into effect since an occurrence of a last previous update time at which the at least one validity condition of the at least one business rule was checked, said newly operative provision prescribing an alteration of an intrusion set that the provision applies to;

if the checked provision ~~of the business~~ rule is [[a]] the newly operative provision that applies to the intrusion set, then altering [[an]] the intrusion set according to the newly operative provision.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the validity condition is a temporal validity condition.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the validity condition is a network validity condition.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the validity condition ~~is a compound validity condition~~ includes a multiple temporal specification, a multiple network-descriptive specification, or a multiple temporal specification and a multiple network-descriptive specification.

5-8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method of operating an intrusion detection system according to a set of business rules, comprising the steps of:

awaiting an update time of the intrusion detection system;

responsive to occurrence of an update time, checking validity conditions of the set of business rules to determine whether a provision of any of the set of business rules is a newly operative provision;

for each newly operative provision, checking an intrusion set to determine whether the newly operative provision applies to the intrusion set; and

if the new provision applies to the intrusion set, altering the intrusion set according to the newly operative provision.

10-12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering a signature of the intrusion set.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering a threshold of the intrusion set.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering an action of the intrusion set.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering a weight of the intrusion set.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the update time is a scheduled time.

18. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the update time is one of a plurality of update times that occur substantially periodically.

19. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the update time is a computed update time.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the ~~set of~~ at least one business rule[[s]] ~~includes~~ consists of exactly one ~~individual~~ business rule.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the ~~set of~~ at least one business rule[[s]] ~~includes more than one individual rule~~ consists of a plurality of business rules.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the protected network attachment comprises a computer, a server, a workstation, or a combination thereof.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the next update time is a scheduled time.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the next update time is one update time of a plurality of update times that occur substantially periodically.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the next update time is a computed update time.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering a signature of the intrusion set.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering a threshold of the intrusion set.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering an action of the intrusion set.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of altering the intrusion set includes the step of altering a weight of the intrusion set.